UNITED NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1992/11
1 April 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1992
29 June-31 July 1992

COORDINATION QUESTIONS

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1991

SUMMARY

The present report, prepared by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), presents an overview of the activities of ACC and its subsidiary machinery in 1991. The report contains a foreword by the Secretary-General, the Chairman of ACC, and three sections dealing with different aspects of the work of ACC.

The first section of the report relates the actions taken by ACC with regard to the major substantive issues to which priority was given during 1991: development and international economic cooperation; the impact of the recent evolution in East-West relations; African economic recovery and development; emergency and humanitarian relief and assistance; environment and development; and operational activities for development. The second section concerns financial, administrative and personnel issues. Other matters, including action taken by ACC regarding programme matters, implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and ACC, coordination in the mineral and energy sectors, the prevention and control of AIDS, international drug abuse control, the Chernobyl accident, assistance to Namibia, implementation of the commitments made at the World Summit for Children, and industrial development, are dealt with in the third section of the report.

The report also has four annexes and an addendum. The annexes contain lists of ACC decisions, reports and statements submitted by ACC to intergovernmental bodies, meetings convened under ACC auspices and documents issued by ACC in 1991. The addendum contains brief summaries of the activities in 1991 of the subsidiary bodies of ACC and of the ad hoc bodies convened under its auspices.

92-15020 3772a (E) 200492 *200492*

/...

In 1991, ACC monitored the performance of the world economy and emphasized the need for international action to stimulate growth and development. ACC noted that growth in the 1990s would be linked to the availability of finance and stressed that a durable solution to the debt crisis was required. Debt relief to the poorest countries should not be further delayed. ACC was apprised of the status of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and reiterated the importance of multilateralism in international economic affairs and a successful conclusion of the Round. ACC was also fully informed of the preparations for the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). ACC also devoted considerable attention to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade by the organizations of the United Nations system and to the follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

In 1991, ACC considered the economic and other impacts of the transitions currently under way in Central and Eastern European countries and the former Soviet Union. ACC focused on the role of United Nations organizations in facilitating the process of change. ACC was of the view that immediate attention should be devoted to problems emerging in the short term. ACC noted that current levels of official development assistance (ODA) may not be adequate to meet the needs of the developing countries and the countries in transition.

In 1991, ACC reviewed major initiatives and actions undertaken by the United Nations system in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. ACC was informed of and noted the proposed mechanisms for the final review and appraisal of the Programme and of the proposed structure and outline of the report of the Secretary-General. ACC welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 46/151, which contained the final review and appraisal of the Programme of Action and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

The timely and effective provision of emergency and humanitarian relief and assistance continued to be one of the major preoccupations of ACC in 1991. ACC adopted a statement expressing its gravest concern at the deteriorating conditions on the continent of Africa. On behalf of the entire United Nations system, the Secretary-General issued an appeal in May 1991 to the international community for support of humanitarian and relief operations in order to quickly alleviate the suffering in Africa. ACC welcomed the appointment by the Secretary-General of an Executive Delegate in the context of a United Nations Inter-agency Humanitarian Programme for Iraq, Kuwait and Iraq/Turkey and Iraq/Islamic Republic of Iran. The Executive Delegate apprised ACC of the situation in those areas and ACC underscored the urgency of the international community addressing the needs of the refugees and displaced persons and reiterated the commitment of the organizations of the United Nations system to respond to that crisis in an effective and coordinated manner. In 1991, ACC also reviewed the capacity of the United Nations system for early warning regarding new flows of refugees and displaced persons.

In 1991, ACC considered a number of issues related to the environment, particularly the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 1992, climate change, desertification and the environmental consequences of the Chernobyl accident and of the Kuwait-Iraq conflict. ACC stressed that environment must be recognized as an integral part of sustainable development and the sectoral policies that would emanate therefrom. ACC reviewed the state of preparations for the Conference and heard progress reports of the Secretary-General of the Conference at both its regular sessions. Members of ACC reiterated their strong commitment to and support for the Conference. Preparations for the Conference continued to draw upon the expertise and experience of the entire United Nations system through working parties established on the major issues before the Conference. ACC was also kept informed of the activities and results of the deliberations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee For a Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Regarding operational activities for development, the present report provides details on the activities undertaken by ACC in 1991. ACC has focused its attention on efforts to improve the overall coherence, cost effectiveness and impact of operational activities. In this connection, the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211 has been a major priority.

In 1991, the first ACC report on programmes and resources of organizations of the United Nations system was prepared. The ACC programme classification was also revised. The revised classification, which was adopted by ACC and will be utilized as at 1 January 1992, will provide the framework for the next ACC report on programmes and resources, to be submitted to CPC, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in 1993.

With regard to personnel issues, which ACC considered at both of its regular sessions, ACC presented statements to both the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and the General Assembly, focusing attention on the need to ensure competitive levels of remuneration of staff in the Professional and higher categories and on the continuing instability of the United Nations common system employment conditions. The need for predictability in the management of those conditions of service was emphasized. The management of the margin between United Nations salaries and those of the comparator was a high priority for ACC, which continued to hold the view that freezes of post adjustment were unacceptable and indefensible at a time when the comparator civil service had recognized that the salaries of its civil servants were not competitive.

Regarding financial issues, in 1991 ACC concentrated on a number of issues of both a technical and a more general nature. The financial situation of organizations of the United Nations system continued to cause concern in 1991 and to have serious implications for the planning and implementation of programme activities. System-wide statistics on the payment performance of individual contributors were assembled, along with data on the effects of the incentive and penalty schemes introduced in some organizations to speed up collection of assessed contributions.

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION IN 1991	1 - 50	6
	A. Development and international economic cooperation	1 - 6	6
	B. Impact of recent evolution in East-West relations	7 - 10	7
	C. African economic recovery and development	11 - 17	8
	D. Emergency and humanitarian relief and assistance .	18 - 23	9
	E. Environment and development	24 - 36	10
	F. Operational activities for development	37 - 50	13
II.	FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND PERSONNEL ISSUES	51 - 66	17
	A. Personnel and general administrative issues.....	51 - 58	17
	B. Financial issues	59 - 66	19
III.	OTHER MATTERS	67 - 106	21

Annexes

I.	Decisions adopted by the Administrative Committee on Coordination in 1991	30
II.	Reports, statements and comments submitted by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to intergovernmental bodies in 1991	32
III.	Meetings convened under the auspices of the Administrative Committee on Coordination in 1991	33
IV.	Documents issued by the Administrative Committee on Coordination in 1991	36

Abbreviations

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
CCAQ (FB)	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions)
CCAQ (PER)	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions)
CCSQ (OPS)	Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities)
CCSQ (PROG)	Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters)
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
ODA	Official development assistance
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

I. MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION IN 1991

A. Development and international economic cooperation

1. In 1991, ACC continued to monitor the state of the world economy and to review critical issues relating to development and international economic cooperation. Particular emphasis was given to the prospects of the developing countries. ACC noted that the recovery of the world economy remained fragile, which pointed to the need for international action to stimulate growth and development.

2. During 1991, ACC was regularly briefed on the preparations for the eighth session of UNCTAD. ACC was of the view that the UNCTAD meeting presented an opportunity to reinvigorate the North-South dialogue and to make genuine progress on a wide range of international economic issues.

3. In 1991, ACC was also regularly informed of the status of negotiations under the Uruguay Round. The importance of a successful conclusion of the trade negotiations was stressed and ACC again underlined the crucial importance of multilateralism in international economic affairs. A reduction in protectionist measures would not only facilitate trade but would also increase efficiency, reduce government deficits and release funds for more productive activities.

4. As has been the case for a number of years, ACC considered the debt issue, on which it was briefed by UNCTAD and the international financial institutions. While recognizing that significant progress has been achieved under the continuously evolving international debt strategy, many ACC members were of the view that debt relief should be extended to a larger number of restructuring countries in order to allow growth to resume. Debt relief to the poorest countries could not be delayed further. The terms recently granted to Egypt and Poland need to be extended to other indebted countries on a case-by-case basis.

5. ACC recognized that growth in the 1990s would be linked to domestic policies, and also to the availability of finance and, in the latter connection, welcomed the proposal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the convening of an international conference on the financing of development.

6. In 1991, ACC devoted considerable attention to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade by the organizations of the United Nations system. The organizations viewed the Strategy as a framework to which their development activities could be related and pledged continuous efforts to enhance coordination so that the organizations of the system could collectively make the maximum contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategy. ACC continued to stress that human development should be at the heart of growth and poverty reduction programmes. While welcoming the emerging consensus on development strategies,

which included recognition of the role of market forces, ACC was of the view that issues of social justice and equity should remain high on the international development agenda.

B. Impact of recent evolution in East-West relations

7. In 1991, ACC continued to monitor the impact of evolving East-West relations. ACC was particularly preoccupied with the economic and other implications of these sudden and far-reaching political developments. The transformation of planned economies in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union into pluralistic market economies is having a broad impact, through trade and finance, on relations between East and West. But these transformations will also affect other parts of the global economy. ACC continued to be concerned with the role of United Nations organizations in facilitating the process of change.

8. ACC reviewed and discussed the economic reforms being implemented in the Central and Eastern European countries and the former Soviet Union. The reforms contemplated are promising and are expected, in time, to yield significant economic growth, but this will not happen in the short to medium term. However, the task of converting a planned economy into a market-oriented one is immense and will take time, commitment and forbearance on the part of the population. It will also call for considerable outside assistance and access to markets for goods and services in the industrialized countries to alleviate the adjustment burden and to firmly anchor the market orientation as soon as circumstances permit.

9. Judging by the results obtained thus far and the daunting transformation problems that lie ahead, the competitive position of these countries in world markets is not likely to change dramatically in the near future. Yet, in the long term, there will undoubtedly be beneficial effects from the integration of these countries into the multilateral trading system.

10. ACC was of the view that immediate attention should be devoted to problems emerging in the short term. A major focus of attention for ACC was the impact of these changes on multilateral cooperation, particularly the implications for developing countries. ACC continued to be concerned that current levels of official development assistance might not be adequate to meet the needs of the developing countries and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. It was noted, moreover, that the resources of the multilateral agencies, the World Bank in particular, have not yet been sufficiently increased to maintain levels of lending to developing countries, while at the same time raising appropriations for the countries whose economies are in transition. Moreover, ACC noted that the resources of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were being drawn by the reforming countries to a larger extent than would have been the case without the revolutions that began in 1989. These demands on Fund resources were at this stage unlikely to inhibit financing of the balance-of-payments requirements of other members. However, if substantial structural adjustment loans were to

be forthcoming to Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, Fund resources would not be adequate to meet the legitimate needs of its members. This issue deserved the most serious consideration by the international community. In this connection, ACC welcomed the high-level debate during the second regular session of 1991 of the Economic and Social Council on the impact of the recent evolution of East-West relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries.

C. African economic recovery and development

11. In 1991, ACC reviewed the major initiatives and actions taken by the United Nations system in implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. This review represented the beginning of the process of the final review of the Programme of Action by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session and came also in response to the recent decisions by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, expressing concern about the deteriorating economic situation in Africa and the need for sustained support by the United Nations system for Africa. ACC was also informed of and noted the proposed mechanisms for the final review and appraisal of the Programme of Action and of the proposed structure and outline of the report of the Secretary-General on the final review and appraisal of the Programme of Action.

12. ACC was of the view that the final review of the Programme of Action offered yet another opportunity for renewing the commitment of the international community to support Africa's own efforts to achieve self-sustaining socio-economic growth and development, and to refocus world attention on the socio-economic difficulties that continue to face the African countries.

13. The United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, contained in the annex of General Assembly resolution 46/151, reflects a mutuality of commitment and accountability on the part of Africa and the international community. In this regard, Africa is committed to the "implementation of policies for the transformation of the structure of its economies in order to achieve growth and development on a sustained and sustainable basis". The specific areas of commitment include promotion of regional and subregional economic cooperation and integration; intensification of the democratization process; creation of an enabling environment for investment promotion; improving the human dimension; promotion of environmentally sustainable development; integration of population factors into the development process; and the pursuit of policies and strategies to integrate the rural economies into their national context, achieve food security and strengthen self-reliance in food.

14. The international community "commits itself to assisting Africa in its efforts to achieve accelerated growth and human-centred development on a sustained and sustainable basis". Specific support covers the areas of tackling Africa's external debt problem; provision of adequate resource flows

to Africa; effective support for efforts to diversify commodity exports and boost export earnings; and support for the diversification of the African economies and for regional economic integration, environment and science and technology.

15. Through collaboration among the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, ACC stands ready to assist in the implementation, evaluation, assessment and monitoring of the New Agenda.

16. In 1991, ACC was also concerned with the preparation of the system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development. The framework for the system-wide plan of action was prepared and endorsed by CPC at its thirty-first session.

17. The plan of action will derive from the African strategies for socio-economic development and will utilize the framework of the New Agenda for Africa. It will provide a basis for coherent and coordinated actions by agencies and organizations of the United Nations system in support of the sustainable development and transformation in Africa.

D. Emergency and humanitarian relief and assistance

18. The timely and effective provision of emergency and humanitarian relief and assistance continued to be one of the major preoccupations of ACC during 1991. At its first regular session, ACC was apprised by its working group of the situation on the continent of Africa and adopted a statement expressing its "gravest concern at the deteriorating conditions on the continent of Africa, where tens of millions of people, many of whom are refugees and internally displaced persons, are now threatened with starvation. These countries face an ongoing emergency which could reach catastrophic proportions". On behalf of the entire United Nations system, the Secretary-General issued an appeal in May 1991 to the international community for support for humanitarian and relief operations in order to quickly alleviate the suffering. Later, in response to the deteriorating situation in the Horn of Africa, the Secretary-General asked the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) to lead an inter-agency mission to the area from 11 to 16 June 1991 to assess immediate requirements for humanitarian assistance and the means of expediting its mobilization and distribution in the Horn of Africa. On the basis of the findings of the report, the Secretary-General convened meetings of donors in New York and Geneva to urge a prompt and adequate response. A Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa was established under the authority of the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship, drawing on staff seconded from the concerned operational entities of the system.

19. At its first regular session, ACC also reviewed the difficult and tragic situation of refugees and displaced persons in Iraq and neighbouring countries and was apprised by the Executive Delegate of his assessment of the situation in Iraq. Even though world attention had been focused on the plight of the

Kurdish and Shiite populations, ACC emphasized the fact that the entire civilian population of Iraq at that time was at risk. ACC underscored the urgency for the international community to address the needs of those 20 million people and reiterated the commitment of the organizations of the United Nations system to respond to that crisis in an effective and coordinated manner.

20. In this regard, ACC welcomed the appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of an Executive Delegate in the context of a United Nations Inter-agency Humanitarian Programme for Iraq, Kuwait and Iraq/Turkey and Iraq/Islamic Republic of Iran and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Iraq and the United Nations. ACC noted that the Executive Delegate would evaluate the needs of the affected civilian populations and design a comprehensive programme of assistance, in collaboration with the organizations of the system.

21. During 1991, ACC also reviewed the capacity of the United Nations system on early warning regarding new flows of refugees and displaced persons and decided to designate the Office for Research and the Collection of Information of the United Nations Secretariat as the focal point for early warning and the strengthening of cooperation on information-gathering, analysis and dissemination among United Nations organizations, agencies and programmes on new flows of refugees and displaced persons. ACC established an ad hoc working group to develop an effective early warning system related to possible new flows of refugees and displaced persons, including practical measures of cooperation and procedures for gathering, analysing and disseminating information in a timely manner to all concerned, and to make recommendations on the need for an inter-agency consultative mechanism.

22. The Secretary-General apprised ACC at its second regular session, of his report on the strengthening of coordination of United Nations humanitarian assistance. In preparing the report, the Secretary-General set up a task force of all concerned organizations and entities of the United Nations system to assist him, in particular, with the formulation of the recommendations.

23. In 1991, ACC was also apprised of the progress made in the implementation of the programme of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

E. Environment and development

24. Environment continued to be a key issue on the agenda of ACC during 1991. ACC considered a number of topics related to environment, including the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, climate change, desertification and the environmental consequences of the Chernobyl accident and of the Kuwait-Iraq conflict.

25. ACC noted that the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the environment are increasingly seen in the context of economic development. Environment is increasingly recognized as an integral part of

sectoral policies. ACC is aware that there must be intensified coordination within the United Nations system to promote action for environmentally sound development, in particular to better relate international economic cooperation to international environmental cooperation, and to national action for environmentally sound development.

26. ACC remains committed to ensuring that global environmental issues are approached in a coordinated manner and within a wide context through the contribution of all organizations and bodies of the system. In order to ensure effective implementation of environmentally sound and sustainable development policies, additional resources, both financial and technical, are required. While ACC recognizes the importance of financial mechanisms linked to particular international legal obligations, ACC also reiterates the need for appropriate financial arrangements to help developing countries to undertake investments to address poverty-related environmental degradation and to enable them to bear the additional burdens involved in bringing about a transition to an environmentally sustainable development path. It is important that all organizations of the United Nations system participate actively in the development of such new financial mechanisms.

27. ACC was informed of the development of a number of international legal instruments on environment-related issues. Conventions being negotiated on climate change and biological diversity are expected to be ready for adoption in conjunction with the 1992 Conference. Problems caused by land-based sources of marine pollution are being addressed through the development of strategy options, a useful step towards the development of comprehensive control measures. New legal instruments are also being considered in the areas of forests and the working environment. A convention on oil pollution preparedness and response was adopted within the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at the end of 1990.

28. ACC was also informed about several major environment-related conferences that were held during 1991. These included the Conference on Ecologically Sustainable Industrial Development, organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the FAO/Netherlands Conference on Agriculture and the Environment.

29. ACC was kept informed of developments related to the environmental impact of the conflict between Kuwait and Iraq. ACC welcomed the appointment by the Secretary-General of a Personal Representative to help coordinate the environmental impact on Kuwait and countries in the region of the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait. Three inter-agency consultations on the matter were convened by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at Geneva in order to intensify cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system to enable it to respond effectively to requests from member States. Many agencies and programmes, in particular IMO, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), UNIDO, UNEP, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United

Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), have participated in the inter-agency effort, each leading activities and conducting missions within their areas of competence. ACC has expressed its appreciation to the Governments that have made contributions to the efforts of the United Nations system, and has also expressed its satisfaction with the cooperation among agencies and organizations in addressing the emergency situation.

30. ACC has been kept abreast of developments regarding climate change, especially the plans for implementation of recommendations adopted at the Second World Climate Conference in November 1990, as well as the work of the International Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. In taking note of the recommendations, ACC urges relevant agencies and international organizations, as appropriate, to implement the respective recommendations as effectively as possible.

31. Regarding the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, ACC noted with satisfaction the collaboration between the involved United Nations agencies, especially within the context of the Inter-agency Working Group on Desertification. At the same time, ACC regretted that the world-wide implementation of recommendations of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification was inadequate, particularly owing to the lack of commitment on the part of Governments and the consequent lack of resources, while desertification/land degradation in the world's drylands continues to progress unabated.

32. ACC reviewed the state of preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and, in that connection, heard progress reports of the Secretary-General of the Conference at both of its sessions in 1991. The outcome of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, held at Geneva from 12 August to 4 September 1991, was extensively discussed. It was noted that the Preparatory Committee had accomplished a substantial amount of work and had begun the in-depth process of defining and shaping concrete actions, which the Committee would be recommending to the Conference. Many of the Committee's decisions represent significant steps forward in building areas of agreement on some issues and in better defining some of the basic elements contained in General Assembly resolution 44/228. ACC was also informed of the preparations for the International Conference on Water and the Environment.

33. A great deal of work had also been devoted to the questions of financing, technology transfer and institutions, which were all viewed as fundamentally important cross-sectoral issues relevant to all aspects of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The stakes involved in solving those issues were very high and the success of the Conference would hinge largely upon finding a common ground for their solution.

34. While positions on the key questions of new and additional resources remained far apart, some approaches were evolving that could provide possible

focus for the coming round of negotiations. There was a high degree of agreement on the principle that additional financial resources would be needed to support developing countries' efforts towards sustainable development. The problem was how best to give effect to that principle.

35. Preparations for the Conference had continued to draw upon the expertise and experience of the entire United Nations system through the working parties established on the major issues before the Conference. The Conference secretariat was especially grateful for that collaboration.

36. In the ACC deliberations, it was pointed out that it would be important that issues relating to additional resources and the transfer of technology also be dealt with effectively in the context of the intergovernmental negotiating processes relating to the conventions on climate and biodiversity.

F. Operational activities for development

37. ACC, with the assistance of its Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities) (CCSQ (OPS)), focused its efforts on improving the overall coherence, cost-effectiveness and impact of operational activities for development, with particular emphasis on field-level coordination. The implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211 and related decisions of other governing bodies remained a priority.

38. The main issues addressed during the period and the action taken thereon are set out below.

1. Goals and strategies for the 1990s

39. The General Assembly, in paragraph 33 of its resolution 41/171, called for the provision of a general framework of broad objectives for the operational activities of the United Nations system. In order to assist Governments to give effect to the goals and strategies of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, as part of their own national plans and priorities, CCSQ (OPS), on behalf of ACC, elaborated and issued an information and initial guidance note on the operational implications of the Strategy. It was issued by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to resident coordinators. Organizations sent it to their respective headquarters and field office staff. The note is advisory in nature and provides a basis for action in the unique circumstances of each country. While recognizing that the primary responsibility for giving operational effect to the goals and priorities lies with Governments, it identifies specific measures that resident coordinators and their country-level partners of the system can take in discharging the system's important supporting role. The note is supplemented by inputs prepared by individual organizations on their priority goals and strategies for the 1990s, and on the priority activities that individual organizations are ready to support. Initial indications are that

this initiative is being well received by Governments and by the United Nations country teams. ACC is monitoring the implementation of the information and guidance note, which complements other initiatives for enhancing the overall coherence of United Nations system activities through the issuance of draft guidelines to country teams for enhancing programming processes, and guidelines on enhancing the role of the resident coordinator system.

2. Enhancing programming processes

40. In pursuance of both paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 42/196 and paragraph 17 of resolution 44/211, considerable time and attention was devoted to this issue. CCSQ (OPS) agreed on draft guidelines for enhancing the coordination of the programming processes, including measures better to ensure an integrated United Nations response to the requirements of recipient countries. Since consensus on some aspects of the question of an integrated response was not reached by the General Assembly, it was decided to issue the guidelines as a draft in order to assess their relevance and feasibility in each country situation. They have thus been issued to resident coordinators by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation. The draft guidelines emphasize that national plans and priorities constitute the essential framework within which external assistance should be articulated. While the programming process must be a government-led effort, the system should be ready to support Governments on request. They, furthermore, identify a series of measures, including the elaboration of a note on common themes and linkages, which reflect the proposed contribution of the system.

3. Enhancing the role and effectiveness of the resident coordinator system

41. As previously reported, the consolidated text of the recommendations adopted by ACC in pursuance of paragraph 25 of General Assembly resolution 42/196 and of paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 44/211, were transmitted by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to resident coordinators in 1990. They were also transmitted by, or on behalf of, executive heads to their respective headquarters and field staff. CCSQ (OPS) continued to monitor their implementation and has taken steps to ensure that they receive due attention. The guidelines have, for example, been presented and discussed at each of the management of field coordination workshops for country teams (referred to below). In addition, it was agreed to include the texts of common elements in the letters of designation of all resident coordinators and of agency representatives.

42. CCSQ (OPS) undertook an interim assessment of the management of field coordination workshops for country teams, which it had launched in early 1991. It concurred with the positive assessment of the programme by the participants and their respective headquarters. It agreed to extend the pilot

workshops for a further period of six months. It is also collaborating with the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation in a feasibility study on a comprehensive training strategy that covers the training requirements at the field level of national and international staff responsible for operational activities.

4. Reports of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly

43. In preparing his annual report for 1991 and his triennial comprehensive policy review report for 1992, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation once again utilized the CCSQ (OPS) mechanism for consulting organizations of the system. Committee members offered their views on the content and thrust of the reports, while fully recognizing that the recommendations were the Director-General's sole responsibility.

5. Programme of action for the least developed countries

44. In pursuance of its initiative in providing guidance to the headquarters and field structures of member organizations both on the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (see above), and on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, CCSQ (OPS) held preliminary discussions on the outline of a paper it will consider at its first regular session of 1992. It is expected that specific guidelines for giving operational effect to the Programme of Action will be included.

6. Regional dimensions of development

45. CCSQ (OPS) endorsed recommendations, contained in a report on regional dimensions of development, to prepare a unified comprehensive compendium of all regional technical cooperation activities under way, as well as a two-year projection of planned activities; to hold several follow-up meetings on the compendium for information exchanges and clarification of data and to arrange complementary ongoing work; and to undertake a regional technical cooperation survey every five years to provide policy-level directions for the use of these resources.

7. Field structures of the United Nations system

46. As another contribution to the preparation of the annual report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, CCSQ (OPS) reviewed a report concerning the updating of data relating to the field structures of organizations of the system. It noted that the specific

and varying mandates of organizations, as well as the wide range of different tasks carried out at the field level, required that care be taken in relating field representation to the volume of operational activities. Budgetary considerations influenced the extent to which further measures to strengthen field structures could be implemented. Reference was made to the different criteria that prompted the opening and closing of offices and the choice of their locations, and to the fact that policy decisions in that regard are taken by the governing bodies of the various organizations.

8. National execution

47. In reiterating the commitment of all organizations to the promotion of this modality, it was agreed that, pending the finalization of guidelines, initial guidance would be sent to the field as a matter of urgency. The guidelines were subsequently finalized on the basis of UNDP inter-agency consultations, taking account also of earlier agreement by CCSQ (OPS) on a common position on the enhancement of the utilization of national capacities and on the national execution modality.

9. Successor arrangements for support costs

48. CCSQ (OPS) provided support to UNDP inter-agency consultations for the elaboration of detailed arrangements in pursuance of the relevant decisions of the Governing Council of UNDP. Progress was made in this regard and guidelines for the implementation of the new arrangements were jointly finalized.

10. Procurement from developing and under-utilized major donor countries

49. Guidelines were recommended for relevant headquarters and field staff which include a number of measures aimed at promoting procurement from developing and underutilized donor countries. It was concluded that, while the setting of annual procurement targets for the two groups of countries might have some merit, it would be difficult to set targets by agency, region or country. However, better information on the availability of quality products that could compete on the open market could contribute significantly to enhancing procurement from those countries.

11. Simplification and harmonization

50. CCSQ (OPS) reviewed the subject on the basis of a report prepared by the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation in the light of developments since the matter was last considered in 1988. It was concluded that considerable progress had been made by the system over recent years and that further efforts should be guided by the following principles: (a) the procedures for the management of operational

activities of the system should be compatible with those used by recipient Governments in view of the growing involvement of Governments and national staff in all aspects of project management; (b) that harmonization is a general concept which should be distinguished from the specific task of simplification and synchronization; (c) that a balance should be struck between the requirements of harmonization and the preservation of flexibility; (d) that further efforts in this area should involve collaboration with other multilateral and bilateral donors; (e) and that further efforts should be based on the criteria of whether rules and procedures facilitate or inhibit the building of the capacities of the developing country to design and manage projects and programmes. It was agreed that particular attention should be given to ensuring flexibility at the country level and to related areas of delegation of authority and of accountability. Further work on harmonizing project formats/documents will be carried out.

II. FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND PERSONNEL ISSUES

A. Personnel and general administrative issues

51. In 1991, ACC reviewed personnel questions at both of its regular sessions and statements were made to ICSC and to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. ACC focused its attention on (a) the need to ensure competitive levels of remuneration of staff in the Professional and higher categories and (b) the continuing instability of United Nations common system employment conditions and the need for predictability in the management of those conditions of service.

52. Management of the margin between United Nations salaries and those of the comparator was again high on the list of concerns. ACC sought to make clear to the General Assembly that the stop-go salary system of the late 1980s and early 1990s was disruptive, technically unsound and damaging to the morale of staff. Freezes of post adjustment were unacceptable and indefensible at a time when the comparator civil service had recognized that the salaries of its civil servants were not competitive.

53. The General Assembly, in section IV of resolution 46/191 on the United Nations common system, acknowledged the view of ACC and, to some extent, took action to avoid at least a prolonged freeze until the impact of the anticipated improvements in United States federal civil service pay levels could be assessed in 1994.

54. A number of other concerns registered in the ACC statements were positively responded to by the General Assembly in resolution 46/191 and in resolution 46/192 on the United Nations pension system, including the following: (a) an increase of 6 per cent in the base/floor salary; (b) support for consideration by ICSC of the differences in the margin between United Nations and United States remuneration at different grade levels; and (c) modification of the pension adjustment system, with effect from 1 April 1992.

55. Action on the remuneration levels of Assistant Secretaries-General and Under-Secretaries-General, which was also supported by ACC, was deferred by the General Assembly until 1992.

56. The subsidiary body assisting ACC in personnel issues, the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions) (CCAQ (PER)), for its part, reported on a number of areas which, to some extent, marked the beginnings of a new era in looking at United Nations conditions of employment in a longer-term perspective than that of the day-to-day management of the margin. In a discussion of the philosophy underlying the common system, CCAQ (PER) confirmed the need to develop a more dynamic and flexible common system to keep up with changing times. Such a system should foster, not inhibit, change. The development of practical new approaches in keeping with this conceptual approach will form a large part of the work of CCAQ in coming years.

57. A significant portion of time in 1991 was spent in preparing the ACC report on the functioning of ICSC, which was submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session (A/46/275). The report served as a basis for comments by ICSC on the matter and for the General Assembly's consideration of the issue. The General Assembly did not discuss at any length the more technical recommendations but, in resolution 46/191, took a more general view both of its own central role in the elaboration of conditions of service for the United Nations common system and of the role of ICSC in the regulation and coordination of those conditions of service. It also affirmed, as ACC had done, the validity of the ICSC statute.

58. In the course of 1991, ACC also considered a number of other issues, including:

(a) The comprehensive review of the conditions of service of Under-Secretaries-General and Assistant Secretaries-General;

(b) The comprehensive review of the pensionable remuneration of the General Service and related categories;

(c) The question of pension arrangements for officials in certain ungraded posts;

(d) The question of the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment;

(e) The methodology for determining the level of the education grant;

(f) The impact of HIV/AIDS on United Nations system personnel and operational policy;

(g) Security-related issues affecting United Nations system personnel.

B. Financial issues

1. Financial situation of organizations of the United Nations system

59. The financial situation of organizations of the system continued to give rise to concern by ACC in 1991, and to have serious implications for the planning and implementation of programme activities. Under arrangements instituted by ACC in 1987, financial managers of the system pursued their regular reviews and exchanges of information on this subject at each of the sessions of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions) (CCAQ (FB)). As background information for these reviews, system-wide statistics on the payment performance of individual contributors were assembled, as well as data on the effects of the incentive and penalty schemes introduced in some organizations to speed up the collection of assessed contributions.

60. During the review held in September 1991, it was noted that failure to receive payments of assessed contributions had made or was likely to make it necessary for several organizations to have recourse to internal and/or external borrowing at an earlier date than in any previous year. In addition, payments were being received at increasingly late dates from an increasing number of large contributors.

2. Special Drawing Rights as a unit of account

61. To assist the Administrator of UNDP in responding to a request of the Governing Council in its decision 90/34, CCAQ (FB) studied, on behalf of ACC, the feasibility and practicability of introducing Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) as a unit of account on a system-wide basis. Subsequently, a statement on this subject was drawn up and placed before the Governing Council at its thirty-eighth session, in June 1991.

62. In the statement it was recalled that, in an earlier decision (89/45), the Governing Council had envisaged the use of SDRs, or of an ad hoc basket of currencies, for calculating the financial resources of UNDP and the resulting indicative planning figures in order to limit the effects of currency fluctuations. After examining the extent to which the use of SDRs would have this effect, it was concluded that such a system would not provide better protection against currency instability than the arrangements already adopted by the organizations for that purpose and, in a number of cases, would significantly diminish the degree of protection already achieved. For this reason, and because of the high costs and the administrative complications that would also be involved, it was recommended that the question of SDRs as a unit of account should not be pursued.

3. Accounting standards

63. CCAQ (FB) gave careful attention to a study drawn up by the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency on the need for the development of accounting standards in the United Nations system. The study had been prepared in response to a request by the General Assembly, in resolution 45/235, for submission to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through ACC and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).

64. It was recalled that ACC had been concerned for some time with accounting standards. Its past work in that area had led, among other things, to the adoption of system-wide guidelines for the presentation of financial reports and statements and the development of a standard for the disclosure of accounting policies. There was agreement, however, that a need now existed for pursuing the matter on a cooperative basis, with the involvement of the Panel of External Auditors and making use as appropriate of outside expertise.

65. Such an effort, which would need to be carried out in several stages, would have as its final objective the completion of a collection of accounting standards that took into consideration the particular situation of the organizations of the system. The standards should be based on those of the International Accounting Standards Committee, and on those promulgated by other recognized authorities in the field, to the extent that such texts were relevant to the operations of the organizations (as distinguished from operations of a commercial nature, which many such standards had been designed to address). The inter-organization standards should also reflect prevailing practices in the system where these were found to be preferable to other alternatives. A substantial investment of time would be called for to bring this work to a satisfactory conclusion, and much of it would need to be carried out in 1992.

4. Other issues

66. Among the many other financial and budgetary subjects on which CCAQ (FB) reported to ACC in 1991, the following may be mentioned:

(a) Proposed budgets for jointly financed activities (ICSC, Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), jointly financed bodies under the auspices of ACC). Proposed 1992-1993 programme budgets for these activities were reviewed on behalf of ACC in advance of their consideration by central intergovernmental bodies. It was agreed that the principle of zero real growth, insisted upon by Governments in respect of the budgets proposed by the organizations themselves, should be strictly applied in all cases;

(b) Internal controls. CCAQ (FB) continued its regular reviews and exchanges of information on this subject, giving particular attention to the prevention and detection of fraud;

(c) Statistical data on the budgetary and financial situation of organizations of the United Nations system. In agreement with ACABQ, CCAQ (FB) developed, on behalf of ACC, a new report to take the place of the statistical data formerly included in the reports of ACABQ on administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency. In the absence of firm information on the new scale of contributions of the United Nations, the report could not be issued during the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, but it was expected to be available in the early part of 1992.

III. OTHER MATTERS

67. During the year under review, ACC continued to monitor developments in a number of areas in which action by the United Nations system was required.

A. Programme matters

68. Among the questions kept under review by ACC were activities of the organizations of the system related to programme matters.

69. In 1990, ACC had decided to reconvene its Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) (CCSQ (PROG)) to address three tasks: (a) the question of providing in the ACC annual overview report information on the programmes and resources of the organizations of the system; (b) preliminary discussion on ways in which to approach the harmonization of programme budget and medium-term plan cycles in the United Nations system; and (c) the ACC contribution to the thematic analyses to be prepared for future sessions of the Economic and Social Council. CCSQ (PROG) took the following actions regarding the tasks assigned to it.

1. Information on programmes and resources of the organizations of the United Nations system

70. In response to various requests from intergovernmental bodies, and at the request of ACC, CCSQ (PROG), in consultation with CCAQ (FB), had, beginning in 1990, worked on the development of a new ACC report on programmes and resources of organizations of the system.

71. The report (E/1991/42/Add.1) was reviewed and approved by CCSQ (PROG) and CCAQ (FB) and was subsequently submitted to CPC at its thirty-first session, to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1991 and to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. The report was found to be most useful by Member States.

72. In 1991, CCSQ (PROG) also had a preliminary exchange of views on ways in which the next report on programmes and resources, to be prepared in 1993, could be improved and on arrangements to be made for the collection of the financial and programme data needed to complete that report.

2. Revision of the programme classification of ACC

73. In 1990, it had been agreed to revise and update the ACC programme classification. CCSQ (PROG) undertook responsibility for the revision, in consultation with CCAQ (FB) and other parts of the ACC subsidiary machinery, as relevant.

74. A joint working group of CCSQ (PROG) and CCAQ (FB) met in March 1991 and agreed upon the principles and guidelines to be followed in preparing a revised classification. The United Nations assumed responsibility for the preparation and management of the review and, in that context, arranged for a joint technical working group on the ACC programme classification, which met in July 1991.

75. The report of the working group, containing an extensive revision of the programme classification, was considered by CCSQ (PROG) at its meeting held in September 1991. CCSQ (PROG) agreed upon the classification, which was then forwarded to the joint meeting of CCSQ (PROG) and CCAQ (FB) in September. At that meeting, it was recommended that ACC adopt the revised classification, which it did at its second regular session of 1991 (ACC decision 1991/22). The revised classification will serve as a framework for the ACC report on programmes and resources, to be submitted to CPC, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in 1993.

3. Consideration of the development of a system-wide database on programmes and resources

76. CCSQ (PROG) had previously recognized that a central database or a means of central access to the databases of the organizations of the system on resources and programmes would be an effective way of responding to the concerns of Member States concerning the availability of system-wide information. At the twenty-fifth series of Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC, the desirability of such a database was recognized, and ACC was requested to examine the matter further. CCSQ (PROG) discussed the question on behalf of ACC at both of its sessions of 1991. The Committee fully recognized the potential advantages of such a database and noted that these would be further explored on the basis of the development of new management information systems in a number of organizations. It was agreed to keep the question under review.

4. Thematic analyses for sessions of the Economic and Social Council

77. CCSQ (PROG) again considered its role, on behalf of the United Nations system, in the preparation of thematic analyses for the Economic and Social Council, as called for by the Council in resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114.

78. Regarding thematic analyses, as well as the themes for discussion at the future coordination and high-level segments of the Economic and Social Council and other inter-agency reports and plans, the previous conclusion of CCSQ (PROG), that inter-agency arrangements for the review of those types of reports should be determined in the light of the specific themes selected, was recalled. CCSQ (PROG) could, however, perform a supervisory or overview function to ensure consistency in the approach of the various analyses and in the programme and resource information that they contained. It was furthermore stressed that, particularly regarding themes for the high-level and coordination segments of the Council, adequate lead time should be given so that documentation could be properly prepared and submitted in a timely fashion.

B. Implementation of conclusions and recommendations of Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC

79. The General Assembly, in paragraph 3 of its resolution 45/254 B, requested that the annual overview report of ACC include a section on the measures taken or envisaged to implement the conclusions and recommendations of CPC and of the Joint Meetings of the two Committees.

80. At the first part of its thirty-first session, CPC adopted a number of conclusions and recommendations regarding the annual overview report of ACC. The annual overview report of ACC was considered to be a definite improvement over previous efforts. The format of the report was welcomed, as was the emphasis given to substantive issues. In its report, CPC also pointed to further improvements that could be made in the ACC annual overview report. These suggestions will be fully taken into account in the preparation of future ACC overview reports.

81. CPC welcomed the new ACC report on programmes and resources of the United Nation system, contained in an addendum to the annual overview report. A number of ways in which the new report could be improved in the future were also noted. Those recommendations have, in a preliminary manner, already been examined and discussed by CCSQ (PROG) in the context of its consideration of the next report on programmes and resources, which will be submitted to CPC and the Economic and Social Council in 1993. CCSQ (PROG), on behalf of ACC, will make a concerted effort to improve the methodology utilized in the report on programmes and resources in order to ensure that the information is comprehensive and transparent and of use to Member States. ACC has now completed the process of revising its programme classification, which is one element of an improved methodology.

82. The report of the Chairmen of the twenty-sixth series of Joint Meetings, held in October 1991 (E/1991/143), contains conclusions and recommendations relating to the topic considered by the Joint Meetings, the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade by the organizations of the United Nations system. The conclusions and recommendations are, for the most part, cast in somewhat

general terms. ACC is in full agreement with them and is fully committed to ensuring that the organizations, both individually and collectively, contribute to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Strategy in an effective and coherent manner. ACC fully recognizes that coherence of action undertaken by organizations is particularly important at the national level. The work of one of its consultative committees, CCSQ (OPS), described in paragraphs 37 to 50 above, is motivated by the determination of the organizations of the system to improve the overall coherence, cost-effectiveness and impact of its operational activities, with particular emphasis on field-level coordination arrangements.

C. Coordination in mineral and energy sectors

83. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1991/90, requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of ACC, to include in the annual overview report of ACC, to be submitted to the Council at its regular session of 1992, a section on the most effective ways and means of enhancing coordination in the mineral and energy sectors. The Committee on Natural Resources had previously noted the absence of formal coordination mechanisms in those sectors similar to those existing in the areas of water and new and renewable sources of energy.

84. In response to a request by the Secretary-General, members of ACC have provided their views on the subject. The views of the organizations are somewhat diverse. New institutions and mechanisms were suggested by some organizations, while others were of the view that existing arrangements were adequate.

85. The responses of the various organs and organizations indicate a felt need for close coordination and cooperation among various parts of the system. In the past, and to that end, ad hoc inter-agency consultations for specific purposes have been held as the need arose. This modality should be retained in response to specific needs and requirements.

86. In the light of the ongoing discussions in the General Assembly on the restructuring of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and particularly of the subsidiary machinery of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, the question of the establishment of new formal coordination mechanisms in the mineral and energy sectors would be taken up following action on restructuring by the General Assembly.

D. Other items considered by ACC

87. Among the other areas kept under review by ACC, the following received particular attention.

1. Prevention and control of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)

88. ACC has kept the situation with regard to the prevention and control of AIDS under review since 1987. In 1991, ACC was informed by WHO that, while the rate of new HIV infections appeared to be slowing down among certain populations in some industrialized countries, it was increasing markedly in developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, but also in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. On the basis of these trends, 10 to 20 million new infections could be expected in adults during the 1990s, mostly in the developing world. Thus, for the year 2000, WHO projects a cumulative total of 25 to 30 million adult HIV infections, of which more than 90 per cent will be in developing countries. During the same decade, WHO projects that 5 to 10 million or more children will have been born with HIV. Consequently, for the year 2000, the current projection of WHO is that there will be a cumulative total of 30 to 40 million infections in men, women and children. Unfortunately, this projection, large as it is, may turn out to be conservative if the dynamic spread of HIV infection remains unchecked, particularly in South-East Asia.

89. The economic and social impact of the disease, which kills people in their most productive years, will be immense. The selective impact on young and middle-aged adults, who include the socially, economically and politically élite, could lead to economic, social and even political destabilization.

90. Collaboration within the United Nations system was becoming even more crucial in order to ensure a multisectoral response to the social and economic consequences of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In addition to technical collaboration for specific activities and the regular meetings of the Inter-agency Advisory Group on AIDS, the WHO/UNDP Alliance to Combat AIDS has, since its establishment in 1988, ensured multisectoral collaboration between those two organizations. WHO has recently had a series of discussions, both in a group and individually, with the United Nations bodies principally involved in AIDS prevention and control activities at the country level - the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNDP, UNESCO, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Bank.

2. International drug abuse control

91. International drug abuse control has been a priority for ACC in recent years. The implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on International Drug Control, as well as the Global Programme of Action, has been a particular concern. In 1991, the newly established United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) was invited to participate fully in the work of ACC (ACC decision 1991/15).

92. UNDCP provided a progress report to ACC at its second regular session of 1991. The report related the institutional and organizational arrangements being put into place and the role of inter-agency cooperation. It was noted that, considering the ever-increasing number of drug abuse control initiatives undertaken globally, it had become apparent that the expected increase in efficiency, and ultimately the success of those initiatives, could be achieved only through cooperation and coordination, within the United Nations system as well as between the system and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in that field.

3. Accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

93. In response to General Assembly resolutions 45/190 and 46/150, ACC has continued to develop coordinated programmes to deal with the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. In March 1991, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna was appointed United Nations Coordinator for international cooperation to the regions affected by the Chernobyl accident.

94. At its first regular session of 1991, ACC was apprised by the United Nations Coordinator of the background to the accident and its aftermath, the activities of the United Nations organizations in relation to the consequences of the Chernobyl accident and activities planned for the future. Among these was the IAEA-led International Chernobyl Project, an interdisciplinary, technical assessment of the radiological consequences and evaluation of protective measures, carried out in cooperation with local authorities in the affected areas. At the same meeting, ACC established an Ad Hoc Inter-agency Task Force to Address the Consequences of the Nuclear Accident at Chernobyl (ACC decision 1991/6).

95. The Task Force is responsible for providing guidance and support, from both the technical and the policy standpoint, on all aspects of the international assistance effort, and comprises 15 organizations and agencies of the United Nations system most directly concerned.

96. As a result of the continuing discussions held between the United Nations Coordinator and the authorities of the countries concerned, both at Vienna and in New York, and subsequently with officials in the capitals of those countries, it was agreed that a joint plan for international cooperation to alleviate the effects of the accident at the nuclear power plant should be prepared by the authorities concerned. It was further agreed that a meeting of interested donor countries should be organized at which the plan would be presented for financing.

97. The document outlining the requirements for socio-economic rehabilitation of the areas affected by the accident was prepared for the Chernobyl Pledging Conference and widely distributed. All States Members of the United Nations were invited to take part in the Conference, which was held in New York on 20 September 1991. In that connection, a United Nations Trust Fund for Chernobyl was established, through which, in addition to bilateral mechanisms,

contributions could be channelled to the relevant organizations or technical agencies of the United Nations system.

98. Since the time of the Conference, which yielded contributions amounting to some $7.5 million in convertible currency, $3.4 million in non-convertible currency and a significant amount of in-kind assistance, efforts have focused primarily on the collection of funds pledged and the identification of priority projects in the joint plan.

99. Foreseen for the future, as indicated by the Secretary-General in his report on international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (A/46/215/Rev.1-E/1991/76/Rev.1), are a number of activities, such as management of the United Nations Trust Fund for Chernobyl, including disbursement of funds according to criteria to be established, and monitoring their use, and coordination of the activities of the United Nations system of agencies and organizations through the Inter-agency Task Force.

4. Assistance to Namibia

100. ACC reviewed assistance to Namibia by the organizations of the United Nations system in 1990. In decision 1990/18, ACC decided to keep under review the provision of assistance to Namibia.

101. At its second regular session of 1991, ACC had before it a progress report on assistance to Namibia by the United Nations system, prepared by UNDP. The report contained detailed information on the activities of organizations in Namibia prior to and following the country's independence on 21 March 1990. The United Nations system assisted Namibia with, inter alia, the following: formulation of an overall development strategy; support for child survival and development; technical assistance and economic management; repatriation of Namibian refugees and exiles; the country's first population census; training and fellowships; agricultural projects and food distribution; productive employment and labour strategies; development of the country's health, industrial, civil aviation, and housing sectors; teacher upgrading; organization of a drug control mechanism; and drafting of a national investment code. The report also examined the coordination of technical assistance programmes in Namibia, through a variety of processes, including the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, WFP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)). ACC planned to keep assistance to Namibia under review in 1992.

5. South Africa

102. The struggle against apartheid has been a major and continuing concern of the United Nations system for a large number of years. In 1991, ACC reviewed General Assembly resolutions 45/176 A-H, as they related to the coordination of activities by the organizations of the United Nations system. In resolution 45/176 A, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure the coordination of activities of the United Nations system in the implementation of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa and report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. In resolution 45/176 E, the Assembly requested all United Nations bodies, organs and agencies to cooperate with the Special Committee against Apartheid and the United Nations Centre against Apartheid in their activities in order to ensure consistency, improve coordination and efficient use of available resources and avoid duplication of efforts in the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. The Assembly, in resolution 45/176 A, further urged the international community and the Secretary-General, through the relevant United Nations agencies, to provide all possible assistance to facilitate, inter alia, the reintegration of released political prisoners and returning South African refugees and exiles. Subsequently, in September 1991, a memorandum of understanding on the repatriation of refugees was signed between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Government of South Africa and, in October 1991, a UNHCR office was opened in South Africa.

103. ACC considered a coordinated approach by the United Nations system to questions relating to South Africa at its first regular session of 1991, and adopted guidelines in that regard (ACC decision 1991/7).

104. In response to the call for coordination, both by the General Assembly and ACC, a meeting was organized on 1 and 2 October 1991 by the United Nations Centre against Apartheid. All major United Nations organizations, agencies and offices exchanged information on actual or planned activities concerning South Africa and established a forum for continued collaboration on the matter. Also discussed at the meeting were the modalities for the preparation of a preliminary assessment of the possible implications of political evolution in South Africa and of the economic and social needs of the low-income population in South Africa and on the economies of neighbouring countries (as requested by ACC in decision 1991/7; to be finalized in the course of 1992). In 1992, the organizations will examine how the United Nations system as a whole can help in the efforts to address the glaring socio-economic inequalities in South Africa during the interim period and, most importantly, once South Africa has become a united and non-racial democracy.

6. Implementation of the commitments of the World Summit for Children

105. At its second regular session of 1991, ACC was apprised, through a progress report prepared by UNICEF, of current activities being undertaken for the implementation of the World Summit for Children commitments. The report provided background on developments following the World Summit for Children and the adoption of General Assembly resolution 45/217. The collaboration of UNICEF with other United Nations organizations to develop joint approaches to monitor the progress towards achievement of the World Summit goals was highlighted.

7. Industrial development

106. By resolution 45/196, the General Assembly recommended that ACC examine ways and means of fostering United Nations system activities with regard to industrial development cooperation and diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in cooperation with other organs, organizations and bodies of the system, was requested to make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, at its forty-sixth session, on strengthening industrial development cooperation. At its first regular session of 1991, ACC had before it a note prepared by UNIDO, which contained a draft report on industrial development cooperation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries.

Annex I

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION IN 1991

1991/1 Humanitarian Programme for Iraq, Kuwait and Iraq/Turkey and Iraq/Iran

1991/2 Conditions on the continent of Africa

1991/3 Evolution of the margin

1991/4 Pension adjustment system

1991/5 Report on the functioning of the International Civil Service Commission

1991/6 Ad Hoc Inter-agency Task Force to Address the Consequences of the Nuclear Accident at Chernobyl

1991/7 Coordinated approach by the United Nations system to questions relating to South Africa

1991/8 Successor arrangements for support costs

1991/9 Early warning regarding new flows of refugees and displaced persons

1991/10 Principles and Strategies regarding the Impact of HIV/AIDS on United Nations Personnel and Operational Policy

1991/11 Nutrition and population

1991/12 Control of iron deficiencies

1991/13 Report of the Joint Inspection Unit

1991/14 Participation of the United Nations system in the International Specialized Exhibition (Genoa, 1992)

1991/15 Participation of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

1991/16 Appointments to posts in the subsidiary machinery of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

1991/17 International cooperation in the field of the environment

1991/18 Statement on personnel issues

1991/19 Conditions of employment of staff in the Professional and higher categories

1991/20 Pension arrangements for officials in certain ungraded posts

1991/21 Report of the Joint Inspection Unit

1991/22 Revised programme classification of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

1991/23 United Nations Field Security Handbook

1991/24 Participation of the United Nations system in the Taejon International Exposition (Republic of Korea, 1993)

1991/25 Information system security guidelines

1991/26 First regular session of 1992 of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

Annex II

REPORTS, STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES IN 1991

Document symbol	Title or description
A/46/275	Report by the Administrative Committee on Coordination on a review of the functioning of the United Nations International Civil Service Commission
A/C.5/46/31	Statement adopted by the Administrative Committee on Coordination on personnel questions
E/1991/16 and Corr.1	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development
E/1991/42	Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1990
E/1991/42/Add.1	Programmes and resources of the United Nations system
E/1991/42/Add.2	Summary of activities in 1990 of the subsidiary bodies of ACC and of ad hoc bodies convened under its auspices
E/1991/44	Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the Register of Development Activities of the United Nations System
E/1991/143	Report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the twenty-sixth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees

Annex III

MEETINGS CONVENED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION IN 1991

Dates	Venue	Title of meeting
6-8 February	New York	Task Force on Science and Technology for Development (twelfth session)
11-13 February	New York	Organizational Committee of ACC
21-22 February	Vienna	Inter-agency meeting on ageing (fourth meeting)
25 February-1 March	New York (UNFPA headquarters)	Subcommittee on Nutrition (eighteenth session)
4-22 March	Paris (UNESCO headquarters)	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions)
11-12 March	Vienna	Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Women (fifteenth meeting)
11-15 March	Vienna	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions)
13-14 March	Vienna	Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on the International Year of the Family (first meeting)
13-15 March	Vienna	Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters)
18-19 March	Vienna	Informal joint working group of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) and the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions)
19-22 March	Geneva	Task Force on Long-Term Development Objectives (twentieth session)

Dates	Venue	Title of meeting
25-26 March	Geneva	Inter-agency Group on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (tenth session)
25-28 March	Geneva	Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities)
3-5 April	Paris	Organizational Committee of ACC
17-19 April	Paris (UNESCO headquarters)	Administrative Committee on Coordination, first regular session of 1991
10 May	Vienna	Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control
22-24 May	Nairobi (Habitat headquarters)	Task Force on Rural Development (nineteenth meeting)
30-31 May	Vienna	Informal inter-agency working group at the technical level on youth (eighth meeting)
10-13 June	Geneva	Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Security Matters
10-14 June	Vienna	Subcommittee on Statistical Activities (twenty-fifth session)
24-26 June	New York	Joint United Nations Information Committee (seventeenth session)
1-2 July	Geneva	Inter-agency Consultation on the Follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s
29 July-16 August	New York	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions)
9-13 September	New York	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions)

Dates	Venue	Title of meeting
11-12 September	New York	Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters)
11-13 September	London (IMO headquarters)	Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control
12 September	New York	Joint Meeting of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) and the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions)
16-20 September	New York	Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities)
17-20 September	Geneva	Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems
18-20 September	Geneva (UNDRO headquarters)	Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities
25-27 September	Rome (FAO headquarters)	Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources (twelfth session)
7-9 October	New York	Organizational Committee of ACC
24-25 October	New York	Administrative Committee on Coordination, second regular session of 1991
3-6 December	Vienna	Inter-agency Meeting on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (ninth meeting)

Annex IV

DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION IN 1991

ACC/1991/1 and Corr.1	Programme of work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1991
ACC/1991/2	Summary of conclusions, Organizational Committee (New York, 11-13 February)
ACC/1991/2/Add.1	Summary of conclusions, Organizational Committee (Paris, UNESCO headquarters, 3-5 and 19 April)
ACC/1991/2/Add.2	Summary of conclusions, Organizational Committee (New York, 7-9 October)
ACC/1991/3	Monitoring of the programme of work of ACC for 1991 (Paris, 3-5 April)
ACC/1991/3/Add.1	Monitoring of the programme of work of ACC for 1991 (New York, 7-9 October)
ACC/1991/4	Annotated provisional agenda of ACC for its first regular session of 1991 (Paris, 17-19 April)
ACC/1991/5 and Corr.1	Report of the seventy-fourth session of CCAQ (PER)
ACC/1991/6	Report of the seventy-fourth session of CCAQ (FB)
ACC/1991/7	Report of CCSQ (PROG)
ACC/1991/8	Report of the joint working group of CCSQ (PROG) and CCAQ (FB)
ACC/1991/9	Report of the Task Force on Long-Term Development Objectives on its twentieth session
ACC/1991/10	Report of CCSQ (OPS) on its first regular session of 1991
ACC/1991/11	Report of the Joint United Nations Information Committee
ACC/1991/12	Report of the Inter-agency Consultation on the Follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s
ACC/1991/13	Report of CCSQ (PROG)

ACC/1991/14	Report of the Joint Meeting of CCSQ (PROG) and CCAQ (FB)
ACC/1991/15	Report of ACCIS on its sixth session
ACC/1991/16	Report of CCSQ (OPS) on its second regular session of 1991
ACC/1991/17 and Corr.1	Report of CCAQ (PER) on its seventy-fifth session
ACC/1991/18	Report of CCAQ (FB) on its seventy-fifth session
ACC/1991/19	Report of the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Security Matters
ACC/1991/20	Annotated provisional agenda of ACC for its second regular session of 1991
ACC/1991/PG/1	Report of the Task Force on Rural Development on its nineteenth meeting
ACC/1991/PG/2	Report of the Task Force on Science and Technology for Development on its twelfth session
ACC/1991/PG/3	Report of the Fourth Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Ageing
ACC/1991/PG/4	Report of the Subcommittee on Nutrition on its eighteenth session
ACC/1991/PG/5	Report of the Fifteenth Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Women
ACC/1991/PG/6	Report of the First Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on the International Year of the Family
ACC/1991/PG/7	Report of the Inter-agency Group on New and Renewable Sources of Energy on its tenth session
ACC/1991/PG/8	Report of the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control
ACC/1991/PG/9	Report of the Informal Inter-agency Working Group at the Technical Level on Youth on its eighth meeting
ACC/1991/PG/10	Report of the Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its twenty-fifth session
ACC/1991/PG/11	Report of the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control
ACC/1991/PG/12	Report of the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities

ACC/1991/PG/13	Report of the Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources on its twelfth session
ACC/1991/PG/14	Report of the Inter-agency Meeting on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons on its ninth meeting

* * *

ACC/1991/DEC/1-16 and Corr. 1	Decisions adopted by ACC at its first regular session of 1991
ACC/1991/DEC/17-26	Decisions adopted by ACC at its second regular session of 1991